

Message Text

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, AORG, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO ACCEPTANCE OF NEW JOINT INSPECTION UNIT
STATUTE

REFS: A) STATE A-1073; B) STATE 281587; C) STATE 83056

1. AT PLANNED GENEVA GROUP MEETING ON FRIDAY, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE U.S. DELEGATION ENCOURAGING GENEVA GROUP SUPPORT
FOR FAO ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW STATUTE FOR THE UN JOINT
INSPECTION UNIT (JIU). REFTELS INDICATE THE BASIC U.S.
POSITION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE FOR THE UNITED
STATES.

2. THE COUNCIL DOCUMENT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE JIU
(CL 71/17) INDICATES A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS THAT MAY BE
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RAISED IN COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW STATUTE.
ALTHOUGH WE HOPE NOT, IT IS LIKELY SOME OF THESE ISSUES
MAY BE PICKED UP IN THE REPORTS OF THE PROGRAM AND
FINANCE COMMITTEES. COMMENTS ON THE MORE SIGNIFICANT
PROBLEMS RAISED IN THE SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT FOLLOW.

3. ARTICLE 1, PARAGRAPH 2: DOCUMENT INDICATES THAT THIS

PROVISION IN THE STATUTE, WHICH WOULD MAKE THE UNIT QUOTE A SUBSIDIARY ORGAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS, UNQUOTE WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO FAO. THIS APPEARS TO BE THE MAJOR DIFFICULTY WITH THE NEW STATUTE AND IT IS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR OTHER AGENCIES ALSO. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT ALLOW THIS TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY TO BLOCK AGENCY ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW STATUTE. WHILE IT MAY BE TECHNICALLY MOST RATIONAL TO REMAND THE ISSUE TO THE GA FOR ALTERATION OF THIS PROVISION, WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO FORCE RECONSIDERATION OF THE STATUTE IN THE GA FOR FEAR OF LOSING WHAT WE GAINED LAST DECEMBER IN NEW YORK. THE U.S. COULD SUPPORT THE SUGGESTION FOR DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE WHICH APPEARS IN PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE DOCUMENT.

4. ARTICLE 5, PARAGRAPH 2: THE DG OBJECTS TO THE INFERENCE HE SEES IN THIS PARAGRAPH THAT QUOTE A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF ALL STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY THE UNIT IS TO ACHIEVE GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS. UNQUOTE WE AGREE WITH THE DG THAT COORDINATION SHOULD NOT BE ADVOCATED AS AN END IN ITSELF, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE INTENT OF THE OVERALL PARAGRAPH IS CORRECT, SINCE IT DEALS ALSO WITH MANAGEMENT AND METHODS. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE WOULD RATHER AVOID AS UNNECESSARY THE RESERVATION SUGGESTED BY THE DG IN PARAGRAPH 16 OF HIS REPORT. IT COULD BE ACCEPTED IF NECESSARY BUT, IF SO, WE WOULD NEED SOME INTERPRETATION OF WHAT HE MEANS BY QUOTE CLEARLY ECONOMICAL. UNQUOTE

5. ARTICLE 12: THE DG INDICATES ANNOYANCE WITH THE SECOND SENTENCE OF THIS ARTICLE WHICH SAYS THAT ACTION TAKEN BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXECUTIVE HEADS TO IMPLEMENT APPROVED JIU RECOMMENDATIONS QUOTE MAY BE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION BY THE COMPETENT ORGANS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS. UNQUOTE WE WOULD AGREE THE PHRASE QUOTED BY THE DG MAY BE UNNECESSARY BUT WOULD HOPE GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS WOULD NOTE THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE SEEMS TO BE TO AUTHORIZE FOLLOW-UP REPORTS BY THE JIU. ANY COMMENT BY THE FAO COUNCIL ON THIS ARTICLE SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH ITS MAJOR PURPOSE.

6. ARTICLE 20: THE FIRST COMMENTS ON THIS ARTICLE CONCERNING THE PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF THE JIU BUDGET IMPLY THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE HEADS REGARDING THE JIU BUDGET HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY THESE NEW PROCEDURES. IN FACT, A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE, WHICH THE U.S. STRONGLY

SUPPORTS, WAS TO FURTHER THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JIU FROM THE INFLUENCE OF UN SYSTEM SECRETARIATS.

7. CONTINUING WITH ARTICLE 20, PARAGRAPHS 21-27 OF THE

REPORT ARE CONCERNED WITH THE INCREASED COSTS OF THE JIU FOR
FAO. OUR VIEW IS THAT WHILE THE COSTS OF THE JIU HAVE
INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, THE COSTS OF EVALUATION PRO-
CEDURES WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM STILL REMAIN RELATIVELY IN-
SIGNIFICANT. WE BELIEVE THAT INCREASED EXPENDITURES
WOULD BE MONEY WELL SPENT IF WE CAN ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE
EVALUATION AND ARE WILLING TO GIVE THE JIU THE OPPORTUNITY
TO PROVE ITSELF IN THIS FIELD. FURTHERMORE, SUP-L TO CL
71/17 INDICATES THE ESTIMATE OF FAO'S CONTRIBUTION CAN
BE REVISED DOWNWARD SIGNIFICANTLY FROM DOLS. 470,000 TO
DOLS. 390,000.

8. WE CANNOT ACCEPT DG RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 29 OF
DOCUMENT THAT APPLICATION OF STATUTE BE ON "DE FACTO"
RATHER THAN "DE JURE" BASIS FOR TWO YEARS. THIS WOULD
RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT PRESSURE ON JIU NOT TO ISSUE REPORTS
CRITICAL OF FAO FOR FEAR OF LOSING FAO ACCEPTANCE.
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9. IN GENERAL WE WOULD HOPE THE MAJOR DONORS WOULD JOIN
US IN TAKING A MORE FAVORABLE STANCE CONCERNING THE JIU
THAN IS REFLECTED IN CL 71/17.
VANCE

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